STATE OF ARIZONA

DEC 2 8 2001

DEPT. OF INSURANCE BY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF ARIZONA

### DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

In the Matter of:

WESTERN AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE COMPANY

NAIC #27871

Docket No. 01A-296-INS

CONSENT ORDER

Respondent

Examiners for the Department of Insurance (the "Department") conducted a market conduct examination of Western Agricultural Insurance Company ("WAIC"). The Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of WAIC alleges that WAIC has violated A.R.S. §§20-385, 20-400.01 20-461, 20-1632, and A.A.C. R20-6-801.

WAIC wishes to resolve this matter without formal proceedings, admits that the following Findings of Fact are true, and consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. WAIC is authorized to transact property and casualty insurance pursuant to a Certificate of Authority issued by the Director.
- 2. The Examiners were authorized by the Director to conduct a market conduct examination of WAIC. The on-site examination covered claims and underwriting actions for the time period from January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2000, and was concluded on July 11, 2001. Based on their findings, the Examiners prepared the "Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of WAIC" dated July 11, 2001.

3. Following a rating examination of WAIC as of May 21, 1993, the Director entered a Consent Order, Docket No. 8498, which was filed on August 5, 1994 (the "1994 Order"). In pertinent part, the 1994 Order stated as follows:

"Respondent shall develop and document CP premium in accordance with ER and SR plans...apply applicable...increase limit factors...classify risks only pursuant to filed rates and rules..."

- 4. The Examiners reviewed 104 personal lines and 58 commercial package policies underwritten by the Company during the time frame of the examination and found that WAIC failed to adhere to its filings and not apply its general liability and automobile liability loss cost multipliers (LCM) to the increase limit factors (ILF) on 36 commercial policies. As a result of the Company's improper premium determination, 31 policyholders were overcharged \$13,468.00.
- 5. The Examiners reviewed 99 personal lines and 51 commercial policies that were canceled or nonrenewed by the Company during the time frame of the examination and found that WAIC failed to provide evidence that 14 Notices of Nonrenewal were sent by certificate of mailing.
- 6. The Examiners reviewed 50 closed without payment claims, 101 closed with payment claims, 20 litigation claims, 55 subrogation claims, and 55 first party and 20 third party automobile total loss settlements processed by the Company during the time frame of the examination and found that WAIC failed to treat all claimants in a fair and equitable manner by not including all applicable sale taxes and license fees in the settlement of 17 first-party and three third-party automobile total losses. The Company refunded \$1,158.00, plus \$190.60 interest, to all of the affected claimants prior to the conclusion of the examination.

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. By failing to adhere to its filings and not apply its general liability and automobile liability loss cost multipliers (LCM) to the increase limit factors (ILF), WAIC violated A.R.S. §§ 20-385(A), 20-400.01(A) and the 1994 Consent Order.
- 2. By failing to provide evidence that the Notice of Nonrenewals were sent by certificate of mailing, WAIC violated A.R.S. § 20-1632(A).
- 3. By failing to include all sales taxes and license fees in the settlement of first party automobile total loss claims, WAIC violated A.R.S. § 20-461(A)(6) and A.A.C. R20-6-801(H)(1)(b).
- 4. By failing to treat all claimants in a prompt, fair and equitable manner, and by not including all sales taxes and license fees in the settlement of third party automobile total loss claims, WAIC violated A.R.S. § 20-461(A)(6).
- 5. Grounds exist for the entry of the following Order, in accordance with A.R.S. §§ 20-220 and 20-20-456.

#### **ORDER**

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. WAIC shall cease and desist from committing the following practices:
- a. Failing to adhere to its filings and not apply its general liability and automobile liability LCM's to the ILF's on commercial policies.
- Failing to provide evidence that the Notice of Nonrenewals were sent by certificate of mailing.
- c. Failing to treat all insureds and claimants in a fair and equitable manner and not including all applicable sale taxes and license fees, in the settlement of first party and third party automobile total losses.

2.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

- Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, WAIC shall submit to the Department, for approval, evidence that corrections have been implemented and communicated to the appropriate personnel regarding all of the items mentioned in Paragraph 1 of the Order section of this Consent Order. Evidence of corrective action and communication thereof includes, but is not limited to memos, bulletins, E-mails, correspondence, procedure manuals, print screens and training materials.
- 3. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, WAIC shall refund \$13,468.00, plus interest at the rate of ten percent per annum, to the insureds and claimants listed in Exhibit A of this Order. Interest shall be calculated from the date of the payment to the date of the refund.
- 4. Each payment made pursuant to paragraph 3 above, shall include a letter of explanation to the insured or claimants in a form that has been previously approved by the Director. A list of payments, giving the name, address and zip code of each party paid, refund amount, and the date of payment shall be provided to the Department within 90 days of the filed date of this Order.
- 5. The Department shall be permitted, through authorized representatives, to verify that WAIC has complied with all provisions of this Order.
- 6. WAIC shall pay a civil penalty of \$6,000.00 to the Director for deposit in the State General Fund in accordance with A.R.S. §§20-220(B) and 20-456. This civil penalty shall be provided to the Market Conduct Examinations Section of the Department prior to the filing of this Order.

22 . . . .

23

24

<ol><li>The Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of Western</li></ol>
Agricultural Insurance Company dated July 11, 2001, including the letter submitted in
response to the Report of Examination, shall be filed with the Department after the
Director has filed this Order.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona this Hay of December, 2001.

Charles R. Cohen Director of Insurance

# EXHIBIT A

	POLICY NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	AMOUNT DUE
2			INSURED
3	81713301	3/31/99	\$1,604.00
	81713301	3/31/00	\$1,508.00
	86906701	4/11/99	\$351.00
	86906701	4/11/00	\$469.00
	87071501	10/28/99	\$776.00
	87218301	10/22/99	\$116.00
	87288801	5/31/99	\$617.00
	87288801	5/31/00	\$862.00
	87389901	10/24/99	\$627.00
	87528001	2/05/99	\$413.00
	87528001	2/05/00	\$509.00
	87697901	7/16/99	\$68.00
	87808801	9/23/99	\$179.00
	87956101	10/25/99	\$52.00
	88098201	11/04/99	\$64.00
	88293501	6/08/99	\$332.00
	88293501	6/08/00	\$238.00
	88415901	9/30/99	\$120.00
	88667501	7/20/99	\$225.00
	88667501	7/20/00	\$228.00
	88723801	10/01/99	\$234.00
	88750001	11/09/99	\$167.00
	U7288801	5/31/99	\$146.00
	U7288801	5/31/00	\$67.00
	U7528001	2/05/99	\$23.00
	U7528001	2/05/00	\$18.00
	87528001	2/05/00	\$309.00
	81713301	3/31/99	\$2,568.00
	81713301	3/31/00	\$19.00
	88415901	9/30/99	\$193.00
	88415901	9/30/00	\$366.00
	TOTAL		\$13,468.00

-6-

## **CONSENT TO ORDER**

- Western Agricultural Insurance Company has reviewed the foregoing Order.
- 2. Western Agricultural Insurance Company admits the jurisdiction of the Director of Insurance, State of Arizona, admits the foregoing Findings of Fact, and consents to the entry of the Conclusions of Law and Order.
- 3. Western Agricultural Insurance Company is aware of its right to a hearing, at which it may be represented by counsel, present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Western Agricultural Insurance Company irrevocably waives its right to such notice and hearing and to any court appeals related to this Order.
- 4. Western Agricultural Insurance Company states that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever was made to it to induce it to enter into this Order and that it has entered into this Order voluntarily.
- 5. Western Agricultural Insurance Company acknowledges that the acceptance of this Order by the Director of Insurance, State of Arizona, is solely to settle this matter against it and does not preclude any other agency or officer of this state or its subdivisions or any other person from any other civil or criminal proceedings, whether civil, criminal, or administrative, as may be appropriate now or in the future.

6. Burbara J. moore			,	who	holds	the	office	of
Vice President	of	Western	Agricu	ultural	Insuran	ce Co	ompany,	is
uthorized to enter into this Order for it and on its behalf.								

## WESTERN AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE COMPANY

12/20/2001	By: Budan 1 - con	
Date		

1	COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered
2	This 28th day of December 2001, to:
3	
4	Sara Begley Deputy Director
5	Mary Butterfield Assistant Director
6	Consumer Affairs Division
7	Paul J. Hogan Chief Market Conduct Examiner
8	Market Conduct Examinations Section Deloris E. Williamson
9	Assistant Director Rates & Regulations Division
10	Steve Ferguson Assistant Director
11	Financial Affairs Division Nancy Howse
12	Chief Financial Examiner
13	Alexandra Shafer Assistant Director
14	Life & Health Division Terry Cooper
15	Fraud Unit Chief
16	
17	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE 2910 North 44th Street, Second Floor
18	Phoenix, AZ 85018
19	
20	Barbara J. Moore, Vice President
21	Western Agricultural Insurance Company 3401 E. Elwood Street
22	Phoenix, AZ 85040-1625
23	urvey Burton
24	